

November 24, 1857.

John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read :—

1. ON FOUR NEW SPECIES OF MUS AND ONE OF HAPALOTIS FROM AUSTRALIA. BY JOHN GOULD, F.R.S., V.P., ETC.

Mr. Gould alluded to the prevailing opinion that none but Marsupial animals were to be found in Australia, and observed that this opinion may be correct to a certain extent, yet the *Placentalia* are well represented in that country by numerous species of the genera *Hapalotis*, *Mus*, &c. ; and remarked that in few countries are the smaller members of the *Rodentia* more abundant both in species and individuals. It is to this latter order that the four new species now exhibited by him pertain.

For the first of these he proposed the name of *Mus assimilis* ; this animal is about the same size as the *Mus decumanus* of Europe, and has a very similar aspect ; its hair, however, is more soft and silky, and its incisor teeth very long and narrow.

MUS ASSIMILIS.

Face, all the upper surface and sides light brown, very finely pencilled with black ; under surface greyish-buff, the base of the fur all over the body dark slaty-grey ; whiskers black ; tail nearly destitute of hairs ; all the feet clothed with very fine silvery-white hairs.

Total length from nose to base of tail . . .	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
————— of the tail . . . . .	6     „
————— of fore-arm . . . . .	1     „
————— of the tarsus and toes . . . . .	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ „

*Remark.*—The minute silvery-white hairs of the feet give these organs a very delicate appearance ; yet they are not positively white, neither are they brown.

The two specimens from which the above description was taken and to which the remarks refer are from the banks of the Clarence in New South Wales, where they were procured by the late Mr. Strange. Three other specimens collected by Mr. Gilbert at King George's Sound differ only in being about a fifth smaller in all their admeasurements ; it is just possible that it will hereafter be found that these latter animals are distinct from the former, but at present they are regarded as identical ; and if such be the case, the range of the species extends along the whole southern sea-board of the continent from east to west.

The second species is a short robust, compact Rat, equal in size to the common Water Vole of England (*Arvicola amphibius*), but rather smaller than the *Mus fuscipes* of Australia. It is in every

respect a true *Mus*, and is an inhabitant of the open plains of Darling Downs, New South Wales; its incisor teeth, when compared with those of *M. assimilis*, are broad and less elongated; its hair also is coarser, and more wiry. Its colouring is as follows:—

#### MUS SORDIDUS.

Head, all the upper surface, and flanks clothed with a mixture of black and brown, the former hue prevailing along the centre of the back, and both nearly equal in amount on the flanks; whiskers black; under surface greyish-buff; hind feet silvery-grey; fore feet greyish-brown; tail thinly clothed with extremely fine black hairs.

Total length from nose to base of tail . . .	$6\frac{3}{4}$	inches.
———— of the tail . . . . .	5	„
———— of the fore-arm . . . . .	$\frac{3}{4}$	„
———— of the hind leg and toes . . .	$1\frac{1}{2}$	„

*Hab.* Open plains of Darling Downs.

*Remark.*—The name of *sordidus* has been assigned to this animal from the dark colouring of its upper surface.

The third species to which Mr. Gould called attention is a remarkable black Rat of nearly the same size as, and of a similarly delicate form to the, Black Rat of Europe (*Mus Rattus*), but from which it differs in having the tip of the nose, the front part of the lips, a longitudinal stripe on the breast, the hind and fore feet, white. For this he proposed the name of

#### MUS MANICATUS.

Head, ears, and all the upper surface black, gradually passing into the deep grey of the under surface; nose, fore part of the lips, stripe down the centre of the throat and chest, hind and fore feet, white; whiskers deep black; tail denuded of hairs.

Length from nose to base of tail . . .	7	inches.
———— of the tail . . . . .	5	„
———— of the fore-arm . . . . .	$1\frac{1}{2}$	„
———— of tarsi and toes . . . . .	$1\frac{3}{8}$	„

*Hab.* Port Essington.

*Remark.*—This animal was presented to Mr. Gould by J. B. Turner, Esq.

The fourth is a very diminutive Rat, with coarse hair and a somewhat short tail; it is even smaller in size than the *Mus Gouldi* and *M. gracilicauda*, but is more nearly allied to the latter than to any other. Three or four specimens, all of the same size, are contained in the collection at the British Museum, and there are others in the Derby Museum at Liverpool, all of which were collected by Mr. Gilbert on the Victoria Plains, Western Australia.

#### MUS NANUS.

Head, all the upper surface, flanks, outer sides of the limbs, and

hairs clothing the tail, brown, with numerous interspersed fine black hairs; under surface greyish-white, becoming much lighter and forming a conspicuous patch immediately beneath the tail; whiskers black; feet light brown; base of the whole of the fur bluish-grey.

Length from nose to base of tail . . . .	4 inches.
—— of the tail . . . . .	$3\frac{1}{4}$ „
—— of the fore-arm . . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$ „
—— of the tarsus and toes . . . . .	$\frac{3}{4}$ „

This animal is known to the Aborigines of Moore's River in Western Australia by the name of *Jilbeetch*.

On the part of Dr. Gray, Mr. Gould brought under the notice of the Meeting a new and very distinct species of *Hapalotis*, which is nearly allied to, but considerably exceeds in size, the *Hapalotis melanura*. This animal was collected by Mr. Elsey in the interior of Australia during the recent expedition from the north-west coast of Australia to Moreton Bay. It is a harsh wiry-furred animal, and differs from *H. melanura* not only in size, but in the apical half of the tail being white.

#### HAPALOTIS HEMILEUCURA.

Head, all the upper surface, and flanks very light sandy-brown, with numerous, but thinly placed, fine long black hairs; under surface buffy-white, with even lighter feet and fore-arms; tail brown, deepening into black about the middle, beyond which the apical portion is white; the white hairs being prolonged into a small tuft at the tip.

Length from nose to base of tail . . . .	8 inches.
—— of the tail . . . . .	$6\frac{1}{2}$ „
—— of the fore-arm . . . . .	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „
—— of the tarsus and toes . . . . .	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „

## 2. OBSERVATIONS ON THE GENUS *FURCELLA*, OKEN, A CONCHIFER WITHOUT CONCHA OR NORMAL VALVES, AND ON THE GENERA *TEREDO* AND *CHÆNA*. BY JOHN EDWARD GRAY, PH.D., F.R.S., V.P.Z.S. ETC.

(Mollusca, Pl. XXXIX.)

The shelly tube of this animal has been described under several names. Linnæus considered it as a *Serpula*; Pallas, Home, and more recently Messrs. Adams have regarded it as a *Teredo*. Oken (1815) considered it a genus under the name of *Furcella*, to which the following names have been given:—*Septaria*, Lamk., *Clossonaria*, Féruissac, *Clausaria*, Menke, *Kuphus*, Gray, altered to *Kyphus* by Agassiz.

There is no doubt that it is allied to *Teredo*, and it has been separated from that genus by the older conchologists because the apex